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**Jurnal Pertahanan**

ISSN : 2087-9415

Media Informasi tentang Kajian dan Strategi Pertahanan  
yang Mengedepankan Identity, Nasionalism & IntegrityVol. 2 | No. 2

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**Community Economic Empowerment in Achieving National Defense****Supandi\* Zaenal Abidin Sahabuddin \*\* Gita Amperiawan\*\*\***

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**Article Info****Keywords:***Disaster Information,  
Online Media,  
Disaster Preparedness*

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**Abstract**

*Economic empowerment is an effort to improve society's ability to fulfill their needs and have well-being, it can influence the improvement of national defense. The research purpose is analyzing the actual conditions and factors affecting the implementation of economic empowerment in South Tangerang city. This research used qualitative descriptive method. Collected data through observation, interviews and focus group discussions. All data have been obtained processed with data reduction, data presentation and conclusion. Results showed that the economic empowerment in South Tangerang City, conducted by the city government and stekholder (Office, Business Associations, Banks, Universities and Private Entrepreneurs) although not yet collaborate to achieve expected results.*

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Pemberdayaan ekonomi masyarakat merupakan satu upaya untuk meningkatkan kemampuan atau potensi masyarakat dalam kegiatan ekonomi guna memenuhi kebutuhan hidup serta meningkatkan kesejahteraan mereka, sehingga dapat meningkatkan ketahanan nasional. Tujuan penelitian ini untuk menganalisis kondisi aktual dan faktor-faktor yang mempengaruhi pelaksanaan pemberdayaan ekonomi masyarakat di kota Tangerang Selatan. Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian deskriptif kualitatif. Data penelitian dikumpulkan melalui observasi, wawancara dan diskusi kelompok terarah (focus group discussion). Semua data yang telah diperoleh diolah dengan cara

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**Jurnal Pertahanan**

Volume 2 Nomor 2

May-August 2016

ISSN 2087-9415

pp. 181-192

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reduksi data, penyajian data dan penarikan kesimpulan. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa pemberdayaan ekonomi masyarakat di Kota Tangerang Selatan, dilaksanakan oleh Pemerintah Kota dan stakeholder (Dinas, Asosiasi Usaha, Perbankan, Perguruan Tinggi, dan Pengusaha Swasta) meskipun belum berkolaborasi secara optimal, sehingga hasil yang dicapai belum memenuhi harapan.

## Introduction

National defense needed to achieve national goals, it contains the ability to develop national power, such as; setting framework, the implementation of well-being and security, e.g. emphasizing the economic development. In getting a good and dynamic economy needs the support of the business climate and dynamic science and technology utilization, goods and services availability, self-reliance, increased production capacity and high competitiveness as an important factor to realize the economic resilience of the community.

According to National Medium Term Development Plan 2015-2019, states that: "...communities and institutional capacity building of rural communities in improving the economic resilience,

social, political and security environment" a strategic issue in development.

The economic resilience of communities is an issue of national development that became the main concern of central and local government. Community economic security issues could not handle by the local government, but the participation needed from society and business environment. community participation is productive and social activities, showing individuals or groups in promotion form (Burr *et.al*, 2002; Greenfield, 2010), like economic defense. Public approaches in community economic defense with economic empowerment.

Sunyoto (2014) state that the development strategy is implementing on community's empowerment. In line with the opinion of Monique *et.al*

(2012) reinforce community initiatives which promote empowerment as a mechanism to development. Civic engagement and empowerment activities could potentially increase the collective feeling and a sense of community (Emily *et.al*, 2012).

Community empowerment is an effort to improve the capabilities and potentials of communities, so that people can realize the identity, dignity and status to survive and develop themselves independently both in the economic, social, religious and cultural (Widjaja, 2003). The community empowerment aims to create a society which self-sufficient, able to explore and utilize the potential of existing its region, and help people out of poverty.

According to Maton (2008) stated that community empowerment setting can contribute simultaneously to the individual psychological development, community development and positive social change. One of the phenomena of local governments in implementing economic empowerment program is a community empowerment program in

South Tangerang City.

In general, community empowerment policy in South Tangerang City has been implemented, such as the National Program for Community Empowerment, Cash Transfer, micro-enterprises credit, cooperation, and home industry. However, it not fulfilled the goals. Thus, the research question is “Does the empowerment can improve economic defense for communities in South Tangerang City?”.

### ***Economic Empowerment and National Defense***

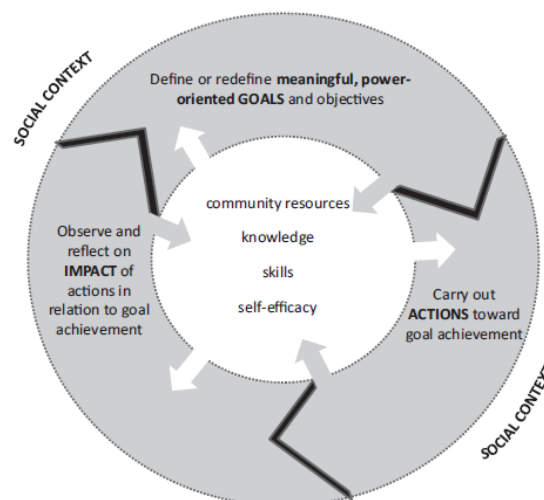
Many community development practitioners have been utilizing empowerment approaches. (Brian, 2012). Basically, there are two different conceptions of empowerment: structural and psychological (Krishnan, 2012). empowerment as experience a shift of power through the achievement of social interaction in the world (Lauren and Lisa, 2015). Empowerment has been defined as providing opportunity for user on access rights and natural resources control through autonomy

expansion and use of institutions available (Agrawal and Gibson, 1999; Monica, 2012), continuous activity, dynamic, synergistic manner to encourage the involvement of all the potential in evolution (Suhendra, 2006), affecting people's ability to act through the collective participation (Wallerstein cited by Monique *et.al* 2012).

Empowerment concept was created as the antithesis of development and industrialization which less in favor of the people's majority. The concept is built on the framework of logic as follows: (1) Centralizing process power awakened from centralizing control of the factors

of production (2) Concentration of production power factors will create a community of worker, public and employers periphery (3) Power will build knowledge system, political system, legal system, and to reinforce manipulative ideology and legitimacy (4) Cooptation knowledge systems, legal systems, political systems and ideologies, systematically creates two groups of people (Hutomo, 2000). The aim of empowerment is forming individuals and communities become self-sufficient with better cognitive formation.

Empowerment process model (Lauren and Lisa, 2015) can be seen on figure below:



**Figure 1. The Empowerment Process Model**

Empowerment domain includes an individual's life, including the ability of one's personal finances. Therefore, economic empowerment aimed at an individual knowledge, skills, and confidence to solve their own financial well-being economic empowerment provides a comprehensive theme which includes the economic self-efficacy and self-sufficient economy, and enhanced by a financial literacy (Postmus *et.al*, 2013), provide support to enable them to develop personal skills and leadership (Sweetman, 2013).

Economic empowerment strategy based on the principles of social model removes social barriers, protecting rights and promoting the main opportunities (Cobley, 2012). Through economic empowerment, people's living standards can be increased because of defense and development. According Coyne (2015), defense and development related to contributions to improved standards of living. Defense provision affects the private economy is by creating new profit opportunities beyond initial and resources direct transfer.

In Indonesia, national defense is a dynamic condition of a nation that contains ductility and toughness which able to develop resilience, national strength, to face and overcome all challenges, obstacles, and threats, whether coming from within or from outside. Indonesia national security concept is the concept of the development of national strength through the setting and implementation well-being, security, and in harmony of all aspects based on Pancasila, the 1945 Constitution and archipelago insight.

## Research Method

This research used descriptive qualitative methods. Researchers tried to describe the events and happenings that be a center of attention without gives preferential treatment (Noor, 2014). Collected data through observation, interviews and focus group discussions. The informants include stakeholders who have an empowering interest (Mayor, Office, Business Associations, Banks, Universities, State Enterprises and Private Entrepreneurs).

Data analysis used for the

qualitative data according to Creswell (2014), emerging data of word and not a series of numbers. The data may have been collected in a variety of ways (observation, interviews, essence document, tape). Data analysis technique using groove of Miles and Huberman, i.e. Data Reduction, Data Display, and Conclusion Drawing / Verification (Sugiyono, 2009)

## **Result and Discussion**

### ***Targets as an empowerment object***

Economic empowerment community targets are focused on the economy organized by South Tangerang City, is intended to improve the ability of business to become independent, while the economic empowerment of target object includes the South Tangerang City is small and medium enterprises/home industry and cooperatives. In line with opinion Goldman and Jani (2015) is an economic empowerment focus leads to micro-enterprise development interventions. Local economic conditions could be analyzed through the existence of some small and

medium enterprises is the driving force of the local economy.

Five types of craft industries which are small and medium enterprises located in South Tangerang City, ie wooden handicrafts amounted to 165 units, 28 units woven, 1 unit of pottery, 293 cloth units and 164 units of food industry.

The overall number of small and medium industries in South Tangerang City 650 units dominated by small industries/home industry. While Cooperatives in South Tangerang City totaled 330 units consisting of employee cooperatives, credit unions, business cooperatives, and Employees Cooperative Republic of Indonesia.

However, cooperatives registered at the Department of Trade and Industry of South Tangerang City recently 81 unit with the number of members reaches 24.553 people. Base on Gross Domestic Regional Product of South Tangerang City, can be seen on table below:

**Table 1. Gross Domestic Regional Product of South Tangerang City**

<b>Economic sector</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Agriculture	1,32
Mining and excavation	0,04
Processing industry	1,07
Electricity, gas and clean water	6,05
Building / construction	1,63
Trade, hotels and restaurants	26,81
Transportation and communication	30,29
Banks, leasing and business services	15,40
Service	17,39
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: author's data collection.

Distribution percentage of Gross Regional Domestic Product sector showed respective sector roles to contributed on overall of Gross Domestic Regional Product. South Tangerang City economic structure dominated by the undertaking of the transport and communications (30.29%) and trade, hotels and restaurants (26.81%). Another sector that also make a significant contribution is services (17.39%), banks, leasing and business services (15.40%). Five other sectors each contributed under 10%.

The number of products produced from various economy sectors (Table 1), shows that the South Tangerang City community income are obtained from four sectors.

Therefore, the consequence is South Tangerang City community should improvement income for the welfare and empowerment. In line with Shahzad, *et.al* (2012) that surely Income growth is important, wellbeing and empowerment are not just consequence of the increase in income.

#### **Stakeholders Role on Community Economic Empowerment of South Tangerang City**

Discussion on the stakeholder's role in the economic empowerment, A.1 informant stating that in South Tangerang City should be involved in community economic empowerment programs, including (1) The City Government, (2) Department of Industry, Trade, Cooperatives and

Small & Medium Enterprises, (3)  
Universities (4) Department of Labor  
(5) Banking/non-banking financial  
institutions (6) Chamber of Commerce  
and Industry (7) Regional Cooperative  
Council (8) non-Governmental

Organizations.

Based on these statements, to  
explain stakeholder's role in support  
of the economic empowerment  
program can be seen on table below:

**Table. 2. Stakeholders Role on Community Economic Empowerment**

Empowerment Aspects	Stakeholders	Stakeholders Role
Technology capabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Department of Industry, Trade, Cooperatives and Small &amp; Medium Enterprises</li> <li>- Universities</li> <li>- non-Governmental Organizations</li> <li>- Department of Labor</li> <li>- Private entrepreneur</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Training</li> <li>- Development</li> <li>- Community service</li> <li>- Business counseling</li> <li>- Courses</li> <li>- Apprentice</li> </ul>
Capital Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The City Government</li> <li>- Department of Industry, Trade, Cooperatives and Small &amp; Medium Enterprises</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Training</li> <li>- Development</li> </ul>
Marketing Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The City Government</li> <li>- Department of Industry, Trade, Cooperatives and Small &amp; Medium Enterprises</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organizational development</li> <li>- Licensing</li> <li>- Trade guidance</li> <li>- Partnerships</li> <li>- Cooperatives guidance</li> <li>- Policy</li> </ul>
Improved Creativity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The City Government</li> <li>- Department of Industry, Trade, Cooperatives and Small &amp; Medium Enterprises</li> <li>- Chamber of Commerce and Industry</li> <li>- Privat Entrepreneurs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Development</li> <li>- Facilitation</li> <li>- Policy</li> </ul>
Improved Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The City Government</li> <li>- Chamber of Commerce and Industry</li> <li>- Privat Entrepreneurs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Policy</li> <li>- Development</li> <li>- Facilitation</li> </ul>
Improved perseverance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The City Government</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Policy</li> <li>- Development</li> </ul>



Empowerment Aspects	Stakeholders	Stakeholders Role
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chamber of Commerce and Industry</li> <li>- Privat Entrepreneur</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Facilitation</li> </ul>
Improved of Courage Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The City Government</li> <li>- Department of Industry, Trade, Cooperatives and Small &amp; Medium Enterprises</li> <li>- Chamber of Commerce and Industry</li> <li>- Privat Entrepreneurs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Entrepreneurship</li> <li>- Market access</li> <li>- Production</li> </ul>
Promoting entrepreneurship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Department of Industry, Trade, Cooperatives and Small &amp; Medium Enterprises</li> <li>- Universities</li> <li>- non-Governmental Organizations</li> <li>- Department of Labor</li> <li>- Private entrepreneurs / Exporters</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Training</li> <li>- Apprentice</li> <li>- Policy</li> <li>- Partnership</li> <li>- Mastery of Science and Technology</li> <li>- Production materials access</li> </ul>
Capital services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Banking/non-banking financial institutions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Capital loan</li> </ul>

Source: author's data collection

Stakeholder role and the affecting factor of economic empowerment of the community is stakeholder's cooperation. Each new stakeholder can implement program according to their respective functions so target has not been achieved. For example, to produce capital of goods and services for small and medium entrepreneurs.

Reality as presented by informants A2 which states that "We are small entrepreneurs find it difficult

to get working capital loans from banks. We've tried to loan on the Bank to the needs of our efforts in industrial production of shoes present, but we do not dare because there must be a collateral requirements and high interest. Finally, we borrowed by colleagues who want to help"

Cooperative capital is limited so difficult as well for us and the time limit so short loan monthly installment is quite high (results of interviews with informant's researchers A2). If steak

holder can collaborate well, expected empowerment can work well reaches the target. Therefore, we need a policy to tie stakeholder that did shared functionality in the implementation of national economic empowerment to realize the national defense.

Empowerment is an effort to improve spirit within each person businesses to did business better. Creating an atmosphere or climate that allows the potential in developing community businesses beginning with encouragement to work hard. Empowerment have a role as a process that involves the inclusion of actors and some interests in society and how this affects the decision-making actors. Empowerment enhance the role of local communities to manage natural resources and can come from several sources (Jentoft, 2005).

Government as a leading sector in development must be able to hold stakeholder, especially factors constraint for example, society knowledge is lacking on production areas, marketing, capital, business based entrepreneurship, import, export, goods distribution and

services, marketing, investment, etc., to create strength of business activities as a strategic step in achieving national security.

## **Conclusion**

Based on the research results and discussion, can be concluded that:

1. Economic empowerment has gone well. Implemented by the City Government and stakeholder (Office, Business Associations, Banks, Universities and Private Entrepreneurs).
2. Governments and stakeholders have not been optimally collaborating on empowerment so that the results achieved do not appropriate of society's expectations of economic actors.

## **Recommendation**

South Tangerang City Government could create policies that regulate cooperation with stakeholder. Further research, it can analyze the concept of coordination between city government and stakeholders on improving national defense through economic empowerment.

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